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Sŏngch'ŏn Weapons Factory

1. On 30 May 1952, the Sŏngch'ŏn (126-13, 39-15) (BU-6048) Branch Work-shop of the Ministry of National Security Plant Number 65 was at BU-6146, which is just southeast of the intersection of the highway and a tributary of the Pullyu River. The work-shop occupied six dug-outs beneath the ruins of a former flax factory. Each dug-out was approximately 20 by 15 by 4 meters in size. Two of these dug-outs served as warehouses, and the other four housed the lathe department, iron works department, woodwork department, and packing department. The offices were in one of the damaged buildings formerly occupied by the offices of the flax factory.
2. Wooden gun stocks and other parts for sub-machine guns and rifles were being made in this work-shop, and the sub-machine guns were being assembled there. Due to a shortage of parts and technicians, rifles were not being assembled. Gun barrels and a few of the precision parts were not manufactured at the shop, but were being imported primarily from the USSR. Sub-machine guns and rifle parts being produced at this work-shop were similar to Russian-made weapons in use in North Korea. Approximately 150 wooden rifle stocks and approximately 80 sub-machine guns were completed daily.
3. About ten-truck-loads of raw materials were brought to the work-shop in ZIS trucks each week. These materials were shipped to Sŏngch'ŏn through Manp'ojin (126-17, 41-09) (BA-7259) by train. The raw material shipments included gun barrels and grease. The rifling on the inside of the gun

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barrels had been finished, but work on the outside of the barrels had to be completed with the use of the work-shop lathes.

4. This work-shop was under the direct control of the Ministry of National Security. Approximately 200 persons were employed, 30 percent of them female. Included in this number were 15 skilled officer-technicians of the North Korean army.

Sunan Ammunition Factory

5. On 2 June 1952, the Sunan Branch Work-shop of the Ministry of National Security Plant Number 65, was along the railroad track 500 meters north of the Sunan railroad station (125-41, 39-12) (YD-3242). The work-shop was in underground dug-outs beneath wrecked buildings which were used as an iron works before the Korean war.
6. One dug-out was being used for the manufacture of ammunition for sub-machine guns and rifles. This dug-out measured about 35 by 15 by 4 meters. The equipment installed there included lathes, drilling machines, milling machines, Tahret¹ machines, blast furnaces, and other facilities for the manufacture of ammunition. Most of this equipment was Japanese-made, and had been moved there from the P'yongyang area. Some of the machines were made in Russia.
7. One section of this dug-out was being used as a warehouse. Finished ammunition was packed in steel cases measuring about 40 by 20 by 15 centimeters. The steel cases were enclosed in wooden boxes for storage in the warehouse section. On 2 June, 4,500 boxes of finished ammunition were stored there. On the same date, 240 boxes of gunpowder were also stored in the warehouse section.
8. The finishing and packing shop was in another dug-out, measuring about 20 by 20 by 4 meters, and located under a partially destroyed building approximately three meters west of the manufacturing shop.
9. Raw materials for the work-shop were being shipped to the Sunan railroad station by train, and to the work-shop by truck. Three or four truckloads of raw materials were delivered to the work-shop about every three days. These materials included gunpowder, percussion caps, brass pipes, and bullets. The gunpowder boxes measured about 50 by 50 by 30 centimeters. They were marked in Russian. There was a letter similar to a hand-written "D" on each box.
10. The plant was being operated 9 hours daily from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. and was turning out an estimated 30,000 rounds of sub-machine gun ammunition and 30,000 rounds of rifle ammunition daily. Approximately 120 workers were employed at the plant, including 40 females. The majority of the workers were between the ages of 30 and 40. The commanding officer of the plant was a lieutenant colonel. Five first and second lieutenants from the North Korean People's army, were acting as technical supervisors. The workers were under the direct control of the Ministry of National Security, and were exempt from military conscription.
11. A platoon of soldiers from the Direct Subordinate Guard Battalion of the Ministry of National Security was assigned to guard the plant. The plant was also defended by an anti-aircraft battery. Since the dug-outs were concealed under bombed-out buildings, no attempt had been made to camouflage them.

Kiyang-ni Chemical Factory

12. In mid-June there was a chemical factory at Kiyang-ni (125-32, 38-55) (YD-2010)

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which employed 5,000 workers and was producing soap, matches, and other chemical goods.

Kangsŏn-ni Farm Tool Factory

13. In mid-June there was a factory producing steel farm tools about 500 meters north of the Kangsŏn-ni (125-35, 38-55) (YD-2410) railroad station. The manager of the factory was KIM Yong-yŏl).

1. Comment. Tahret is presumably the transliteration of a Russian term, possibly the Russian name for "turret lathes."

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